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Barcelona
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EXCELENCIA
SEVERO
OCHOA

Visualising climate services

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Building on the knowledge of **many BSC colleagues**: Marta Terrado, Dragana Bojovic, Diana Urquiza, Konstantina Chouta, Andria Nicodemou, Sara Octenjak, Jose Canovas, Miguel Segura, Marina Conde, Ilaria Vigo, Asun Lera St. Clair, Luz Calvo, Guillermo Marin, Fernando Cucchiatti

1990

SO, THIS CLIMATE
CHANGE THING
COULD BE A PROBLEM...



1995

CLIMATE CHANGE:
DEFINITELY A
PROBLEM.



2001

YEP, WE SHOULD
REALLY BE GETTING
ON WITH SORTING THIS
OUT PRETTY SOON...



2007

LOOK, SORRY TO SOUND
LIKE A BROKEN RECORD
HERE...



2013

WE REALLY HAVE
CHECKED AND WE'RE
NOT MAKING THIS UP.



2019

IS THIS
THING ON?



KOPRA
28/9/13

There is
NO Planet B

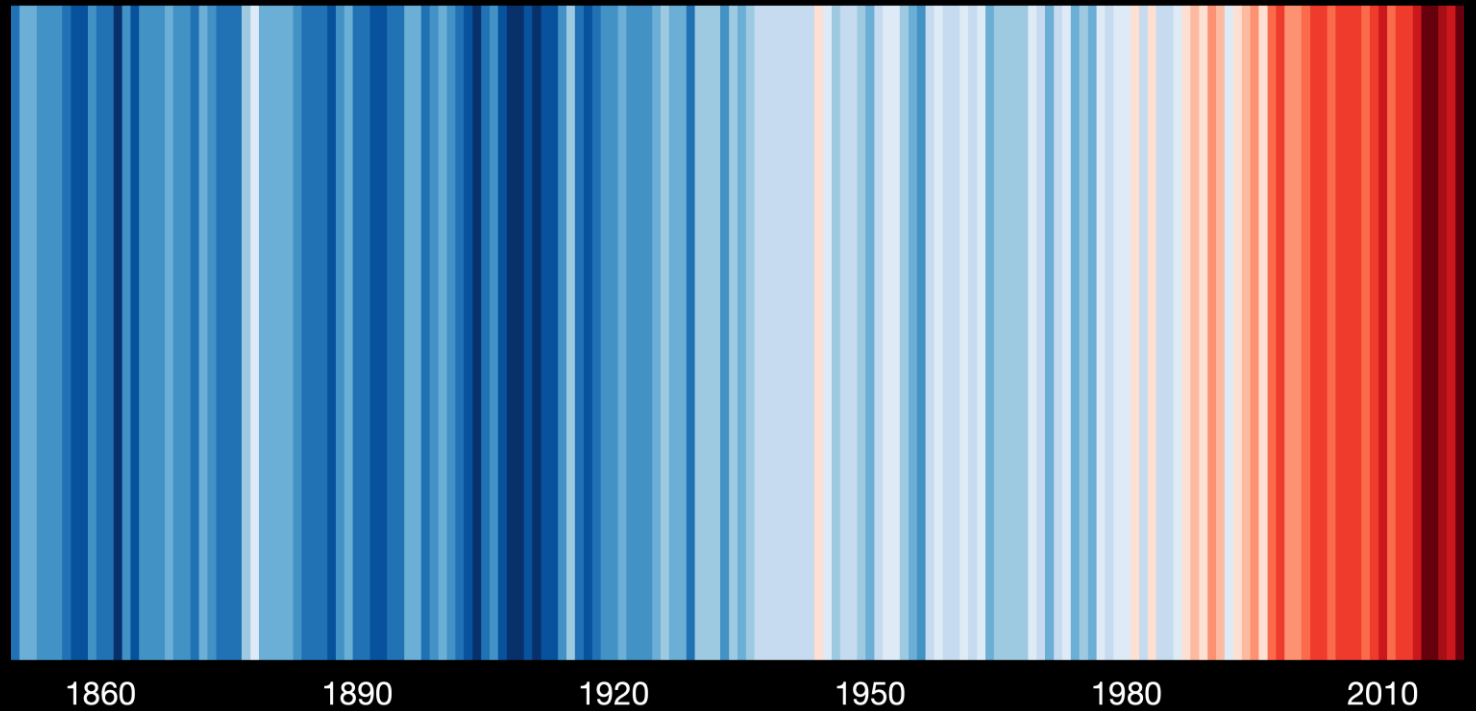


NARRATIVES

VISUALS

#ShowYourStripes

Global temperature change (1850-2019)



VISUALS

#ShowYourStripes

Córdoba 1901-2018



Not only for
broad audiences...

Policy makers



Industry



Civil protection



... and many more

Engage them
Raise Awareness
Trigger action



**ACTIONABLE
INFORMATION**

Climate services
need a
Transdisciplinary
approach





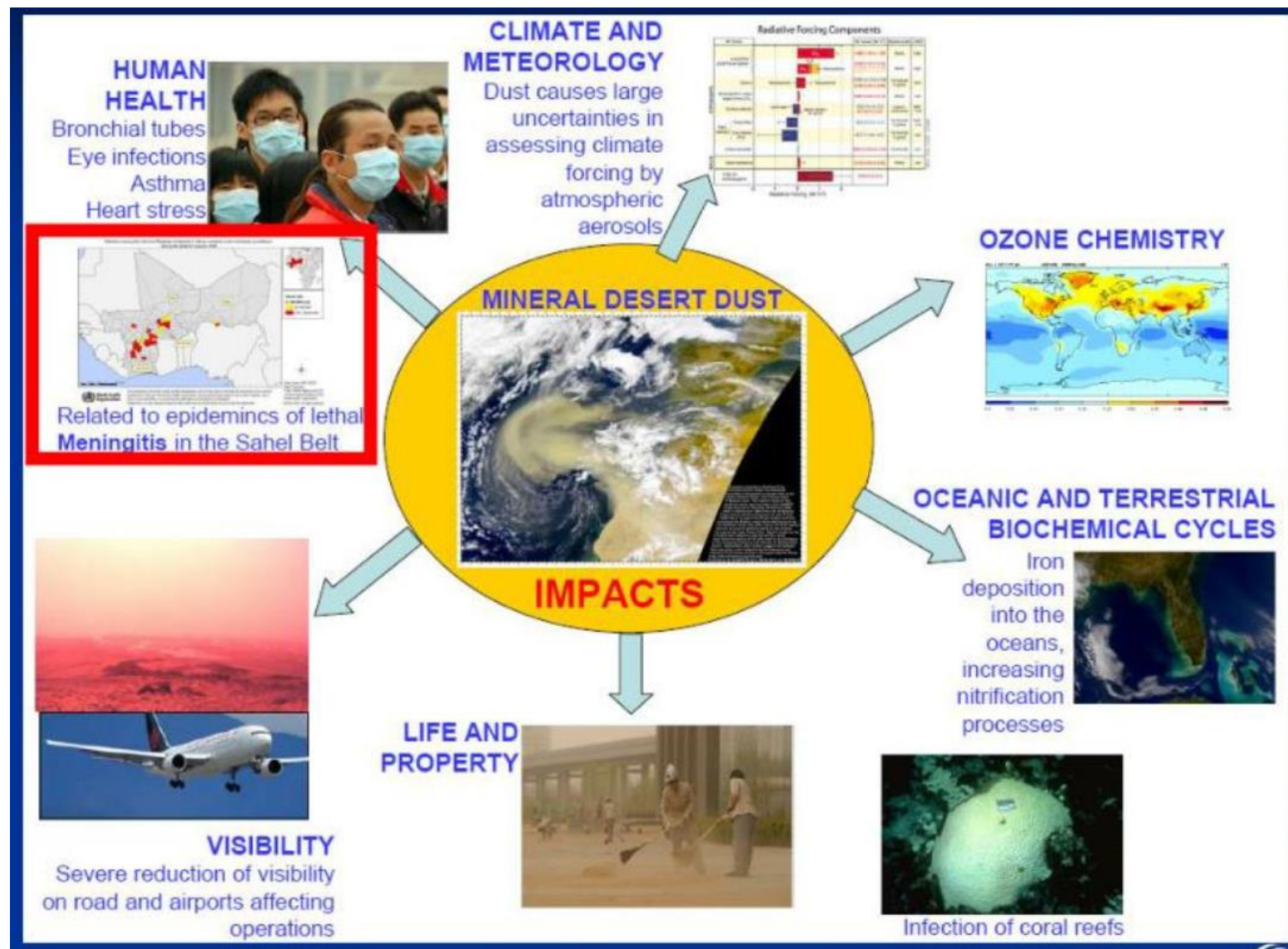
1. Design

Design is **ALL** around but we only realise when it FAILS



WOW factor... Aesthetics also matter

We all have
Unconscious biases





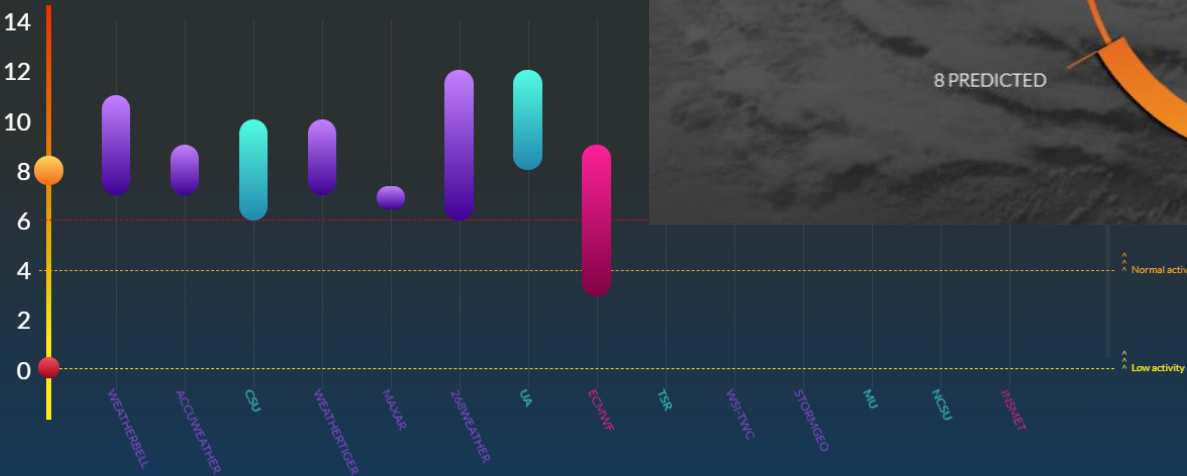


- LEGEND
- UNIVERSITY
 - PRIVATE ENTITY
 - GOVERNMENT AGENCY
 - CURRENT SEASON
 - AVERAGE PREDICTION

PLOT DESCRIPTION

Most recent tropical cyclone forecasts from each of the forecasting centers. Limits for the activity levels correspond to the ones defined by NOAA

- Download .CSV
- Download .PDF



FORECAST EXPLANATION

The Atlantic hurricane season begins on 1 June, and over one dozen groups have already issued seasonal hurricane forecasts for the 2020 season. To date, most groups have predicted an above-average season, with several forecasting an extremely active season (e.g., 9+ hurricanes). The spread in these early season predictions is somewhat less than we have seen in recent years. Several months

season historically ramps up in August, and consequently, significant alterations in seasonal forecasts are possible. For example, if the tropical Pacific were to anomalously warm and tropical Atlantic SSTs were to anomalously cool, seasonal forecasts would likely decrease. Alternatively, if La Niña appeared more likely and the tropical Atlantic remained warmer than normal, seasonal forecasts could be



HISTORICAL AVERAGE

PAST ACTIVITY

2017 10

0 TO DATE

Seasonal Hurricane Predictions

8 PREDICTED

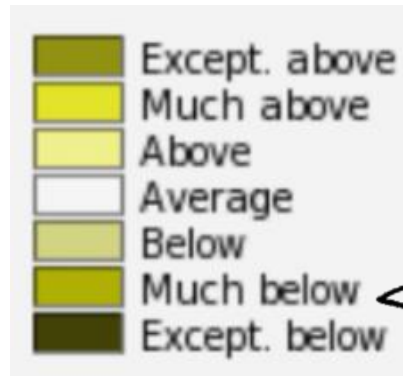




1. Design
2. Color

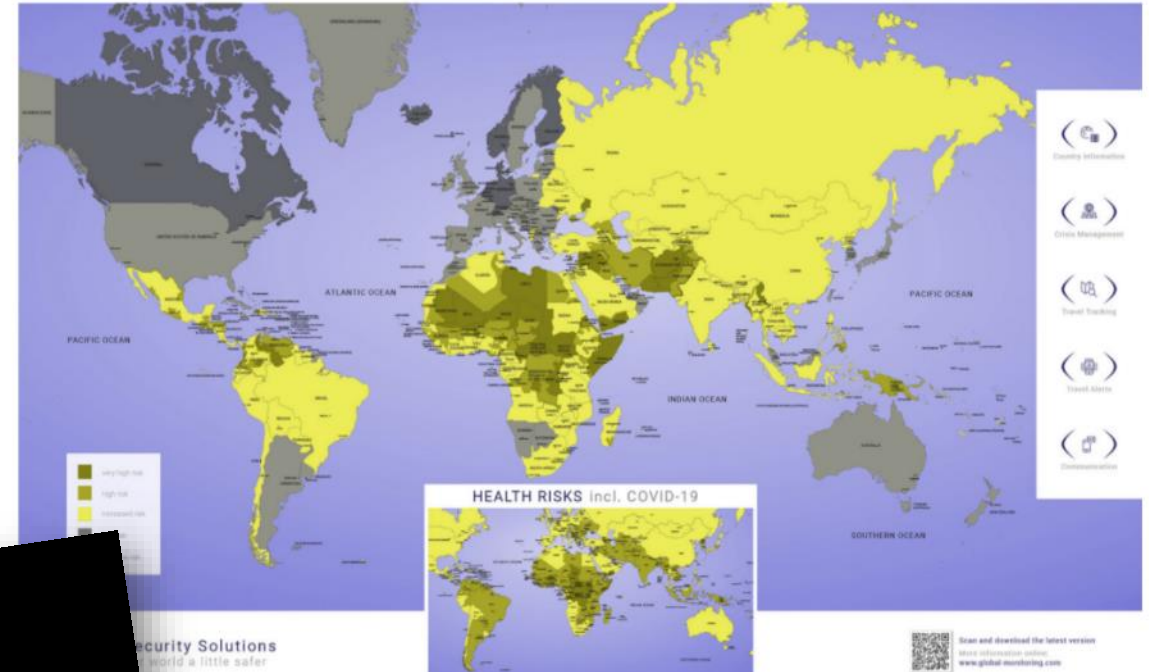


Usual color scale
for precipitation



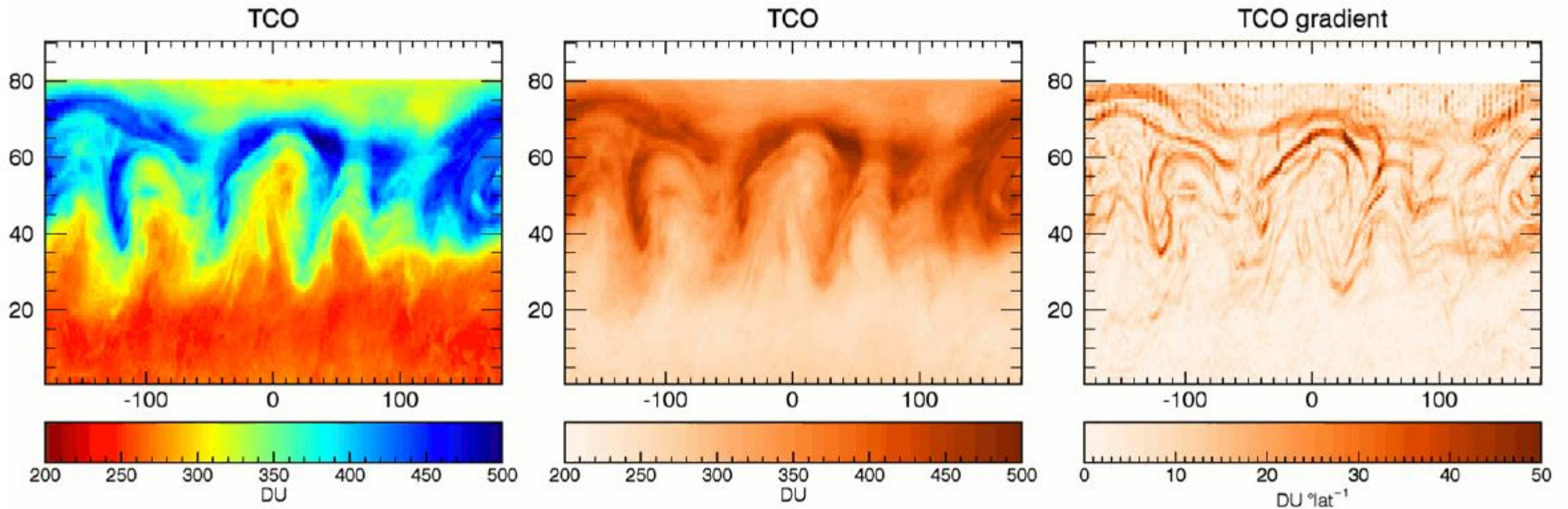
Color-blind
simulation

Build
color-blind friendly
products



Normal practice
does not mean
good practice

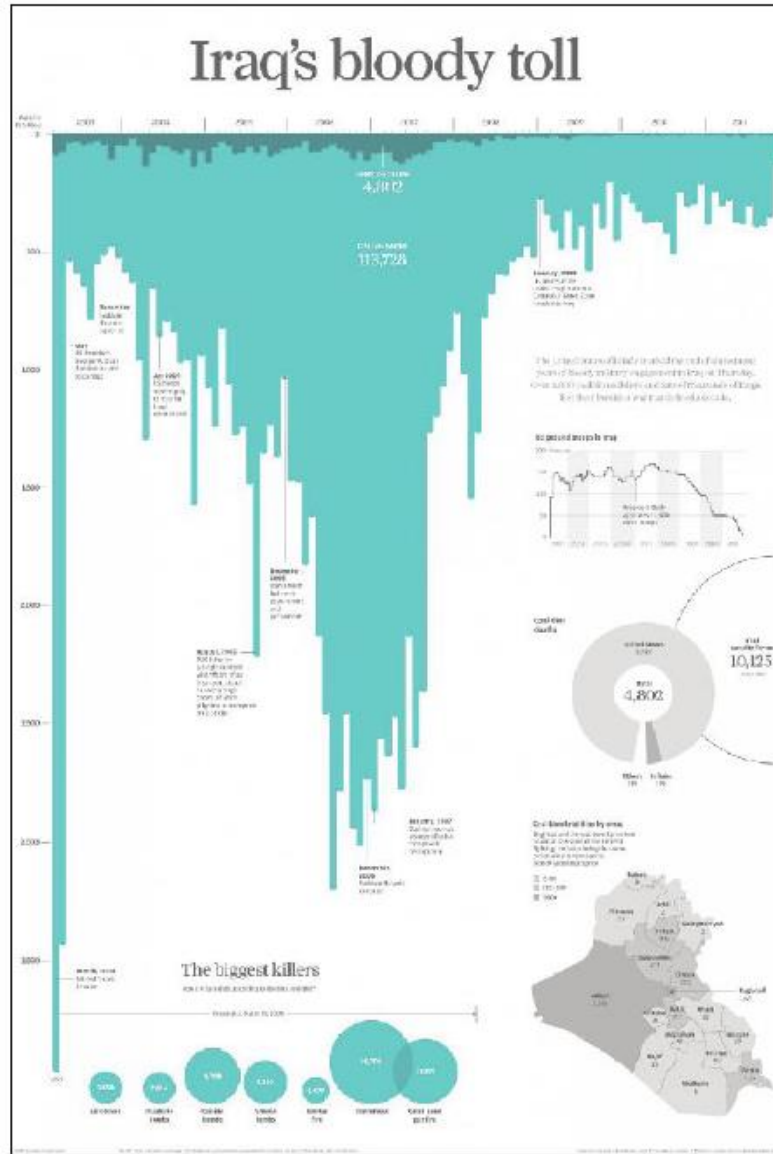
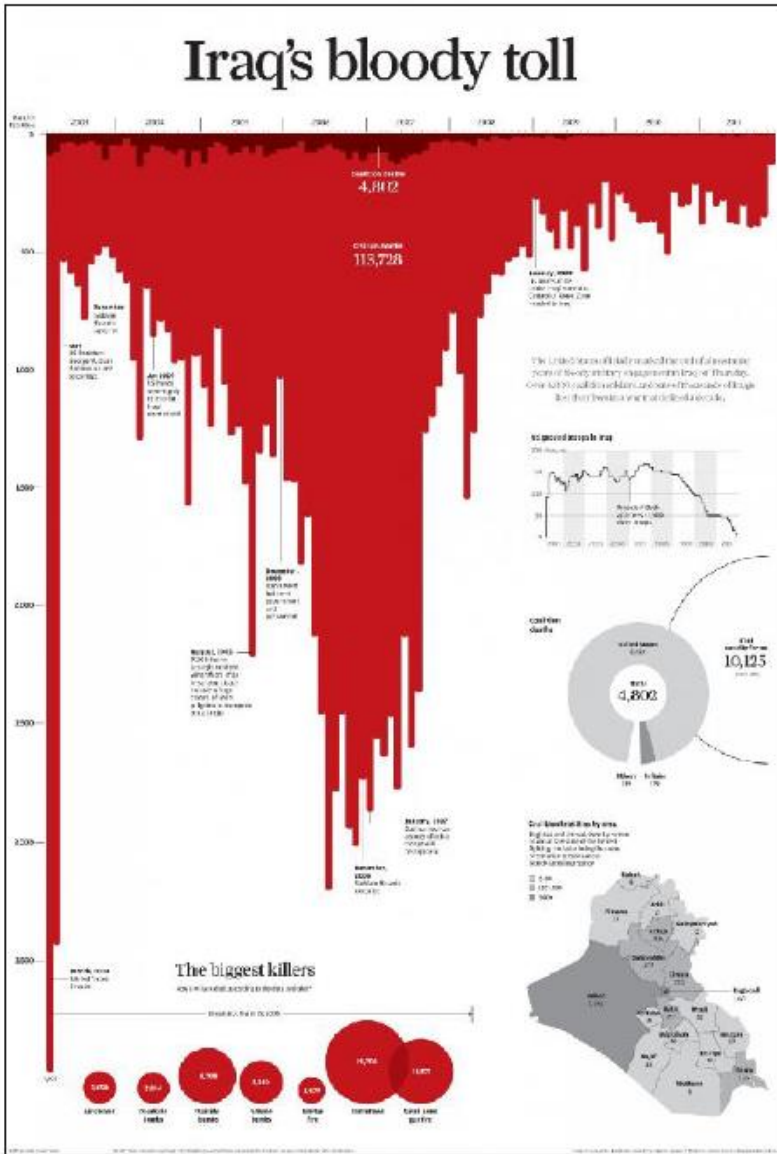
Wrong color scale can show effects not present in data



Learn more at: <https://www.climate-lab-book.ac.uk/2014/end-of-the-rainbow/>

Sean Davis, NOAA

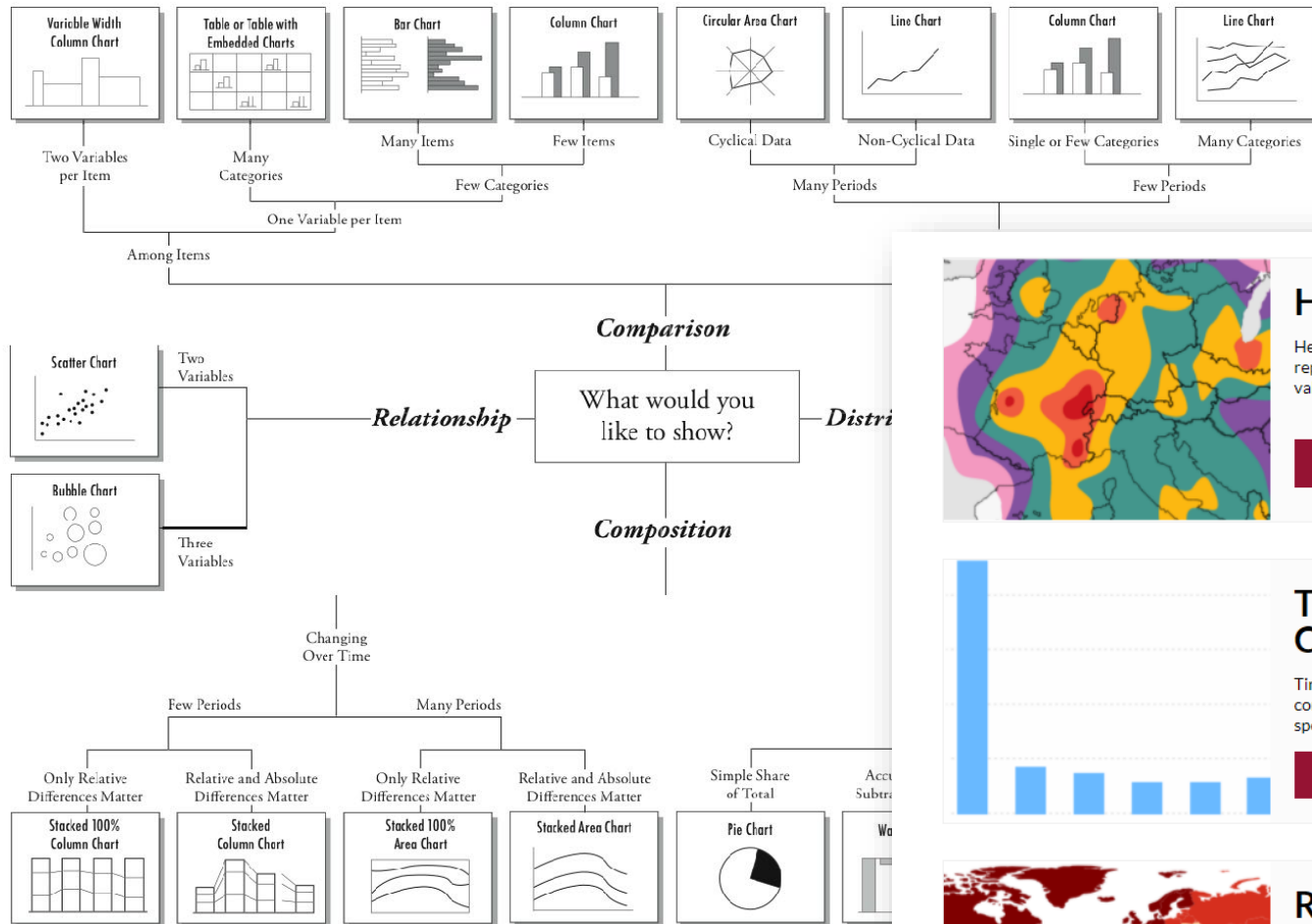
meaning



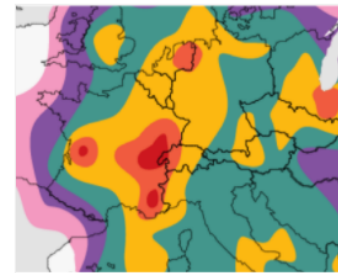


1. Design
2. Color
3. Visual encoding

Chart Suggestions—A Thought-Starter



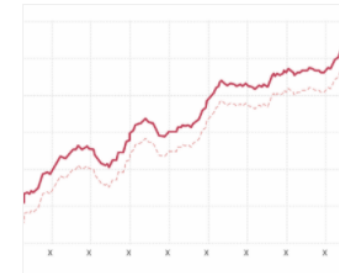
Type of data and type of product



Heatmap

Heatmaps are graphical representations of data where values are depicted by colours.

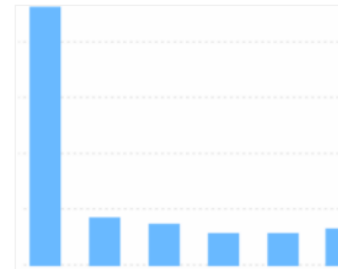
[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)



Timeseries

Time series show how multiple dimensions compare over time, spot trends, and seasonal changes in data.

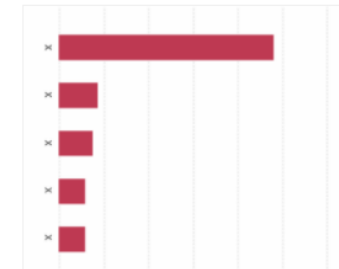
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Time Comparison

Time Comparison allows you to compare a selection of a period in a specific time scale.

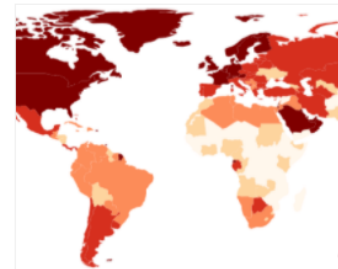
[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)



Ranking

Ranking charts are an effective way to show data ranked in an ascending or descending order.











[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)



Region Maps

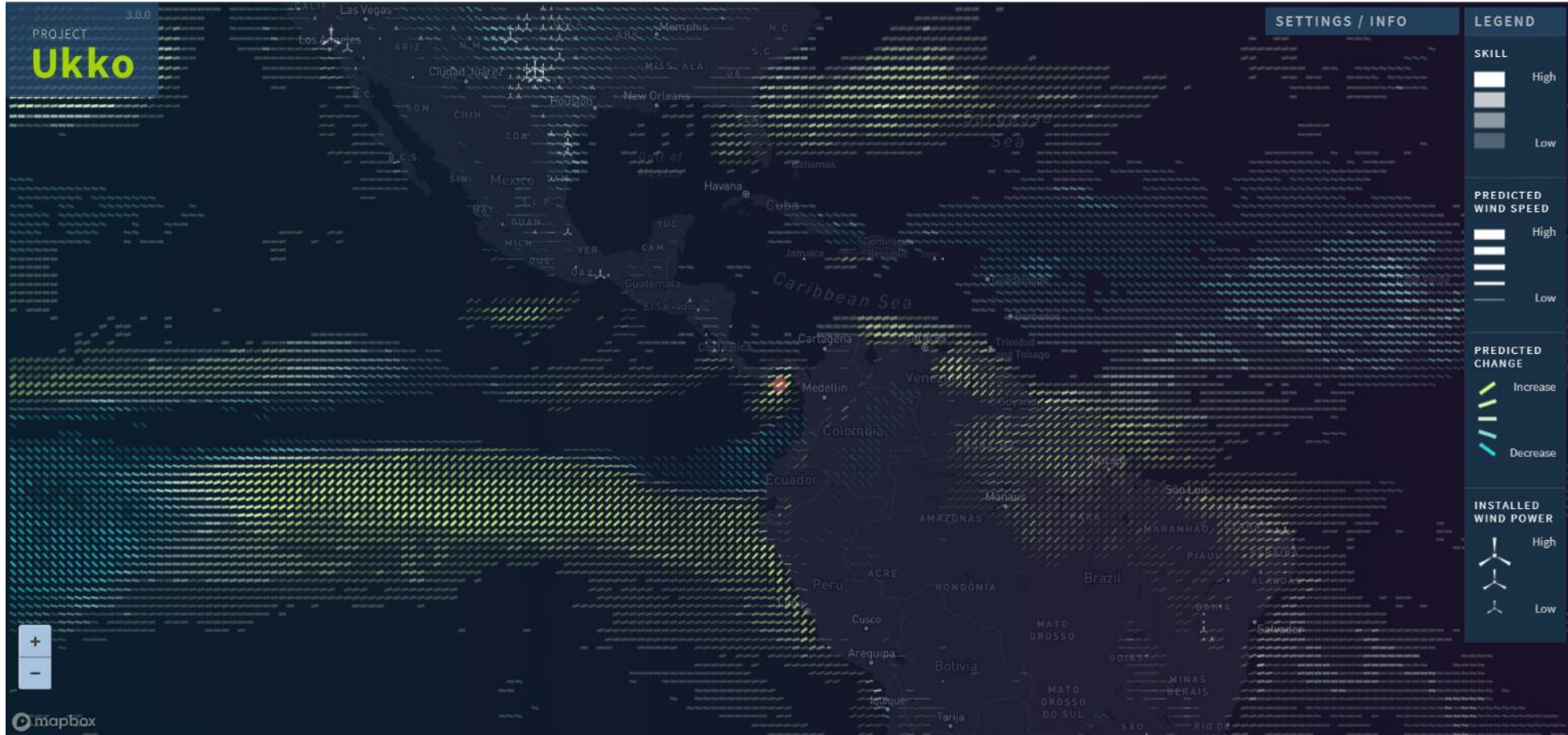
Region maps display regions that are coloured, shaded or patterned in relation to a variable.

[EDIT & DOWNLOAD](#)

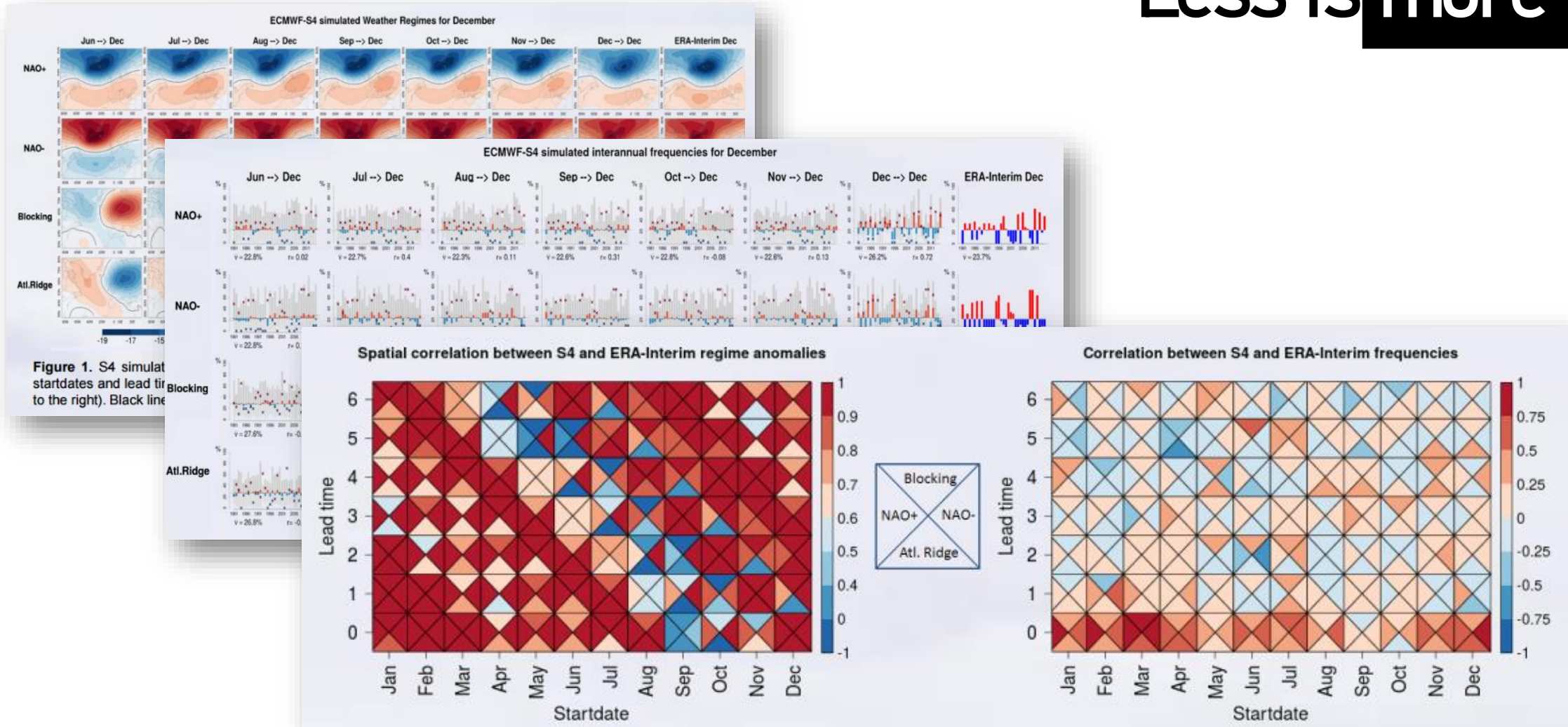
Position on common scale	
Position on unaligned scale	
Length (1D size)	
Tilt/angle	
Area (2D size)	
Depth (3D position)	
Color luminance	
Color saturation	
Curvature	
Volume (3D size)	

Spatial region	
Color hue	
Motion	
Shape	

Not all encoding is equally good...



Less is more





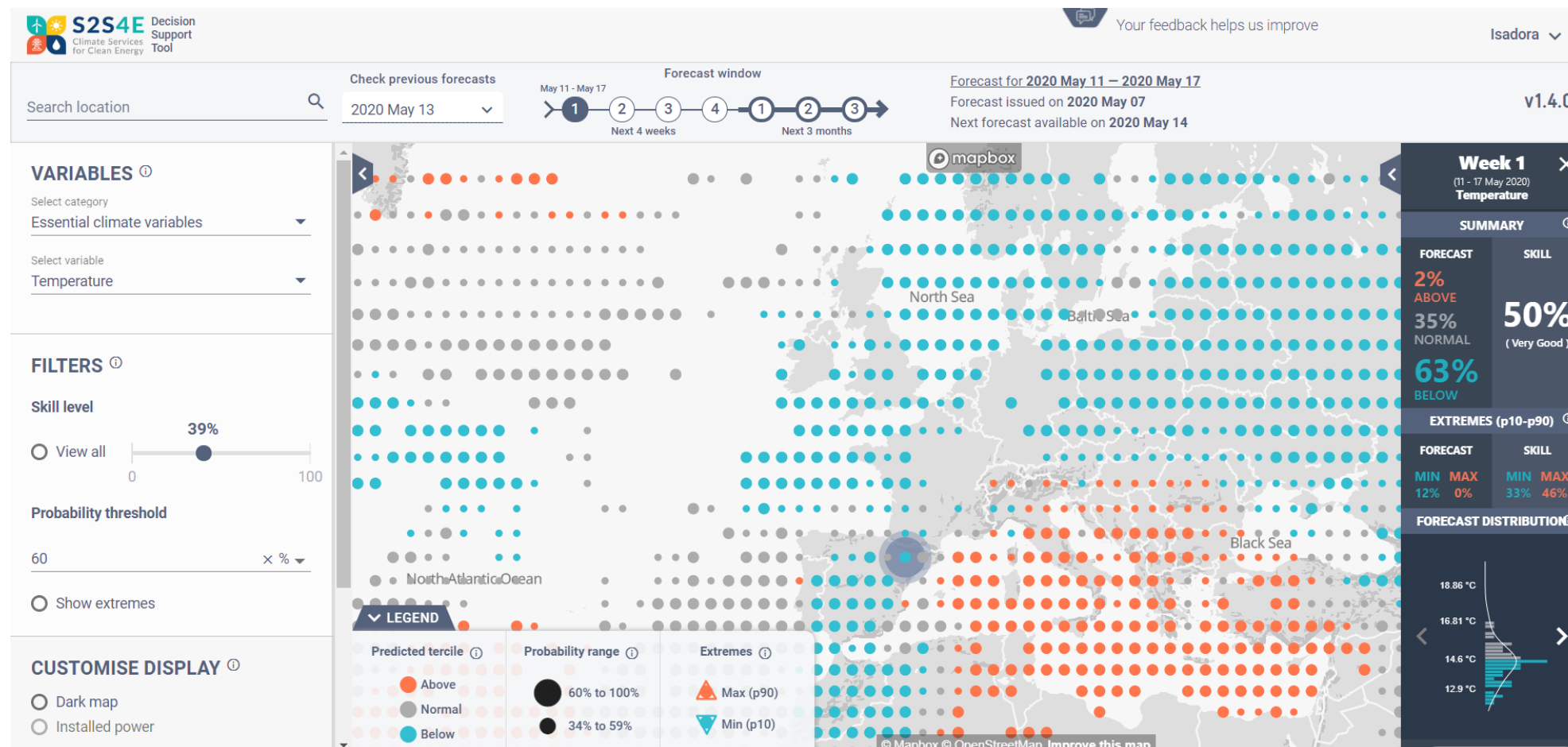
1. Design
2. Color
3. Visual encoding
- 4. Interacting with information**

Two key concepts



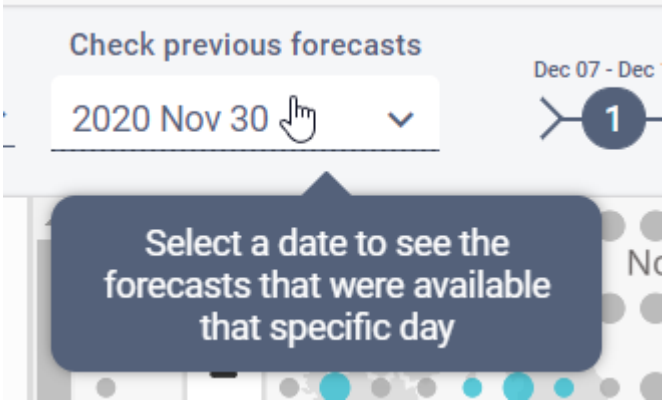
**Progressive Disclosure
Of information**

**Interactive
Design**

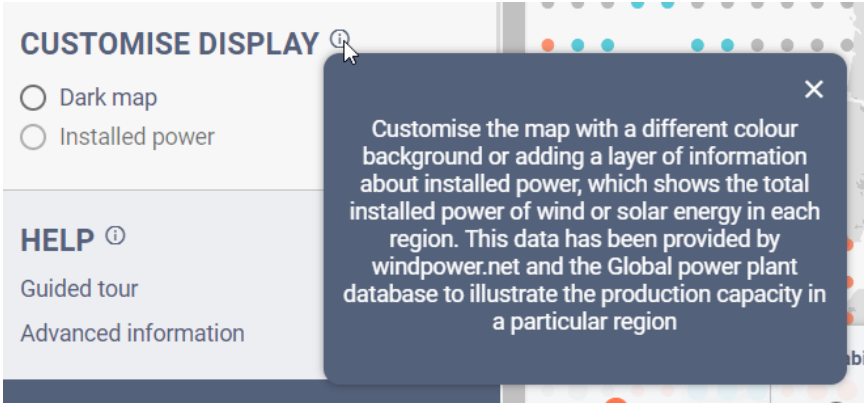


Guiding the User

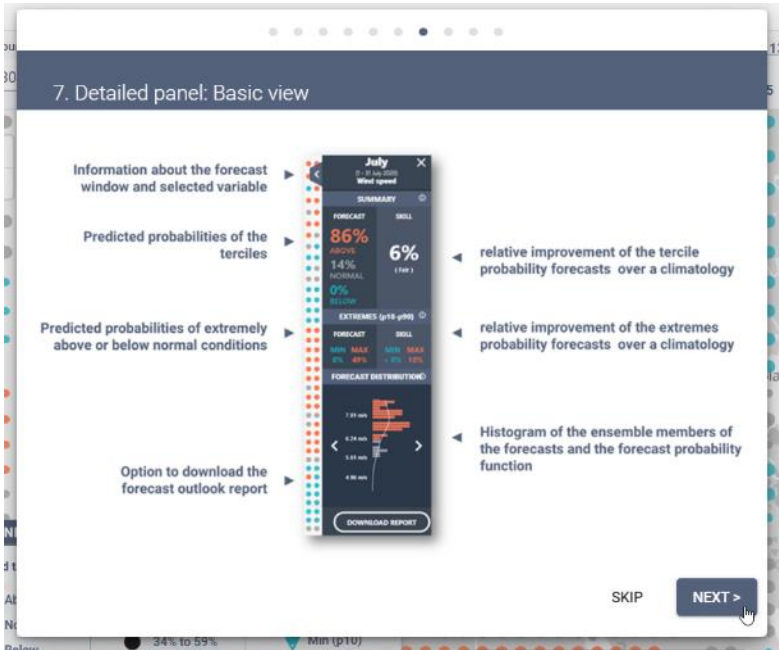
Mouse hover text



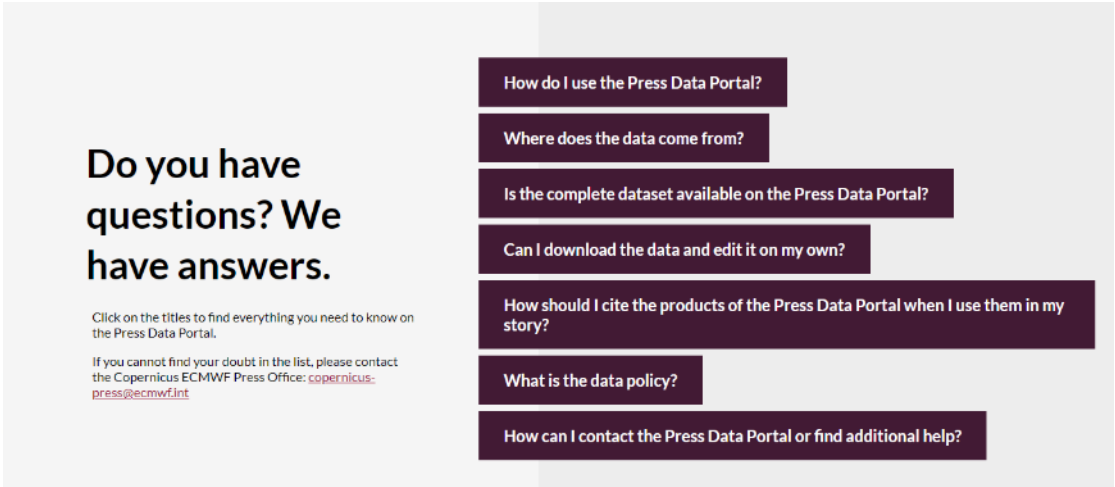
Tooltips



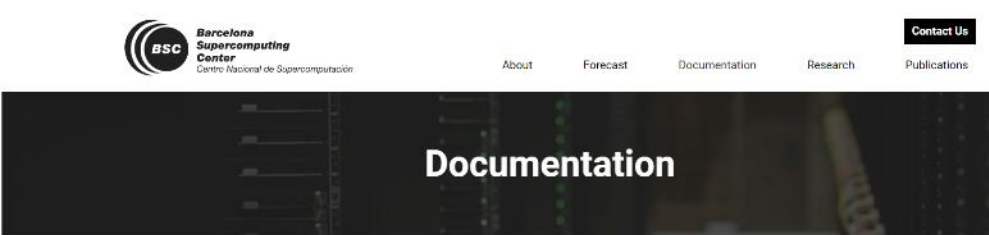
Guided tours



FAQ



Advanced help and documentation



Decadal Predictions

The evolution of the climate systems in the near future depends on changes in atmospheric composition and other external forcings as well as in the slow naturally generated internal climate variability. Until very recently, the only sources of future climate information that were available to interested users were seasonal predictions and climate projections. The former provide a future outlook of the earth's climate system for a period ranging from 1 to 18 months into the future while the latter covers a continuous temporal range from the past century to the end of this century (or beyond) but with no relationship with the contemporaneous internal climate variability. At the seasonal timescale, the climate evolution mainly depends on the internally generated variabilities of the climate system and less on the changes in the externally forced components that occur over the period of forecast. On the other hand, climate projections are solely driven by changes in external forcings without constraints on the internal variability.



1. Design
2. Color
3. Visual encoding
4. Interacting with information
5. Uncertainty visualisation

Uncertainty visualisation is a key challenge
for Data visualisation and Science

First order uncertainty:
e.g. **probabilities**

anomalies

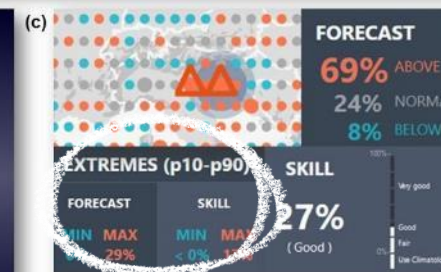
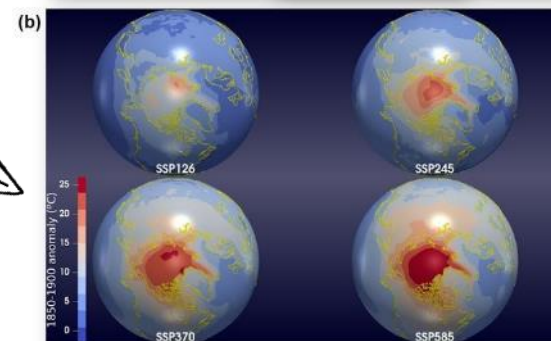
terciles

Terrado, M. et al.

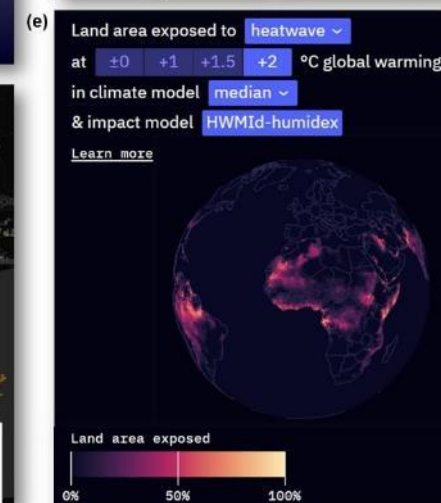
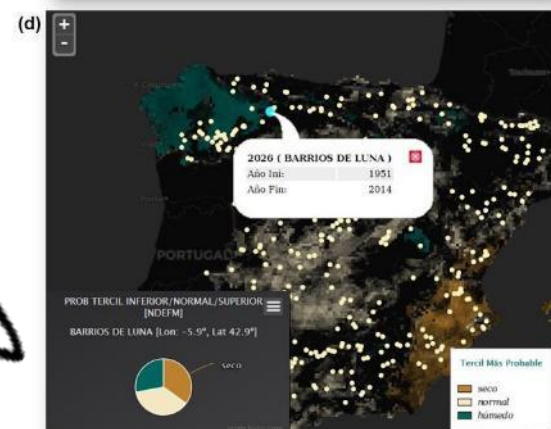
<https://www.climateurope.eu/10020-2/>



average and possible range



extreme events probabilities
(e.g. p10 and p90)



scenarios

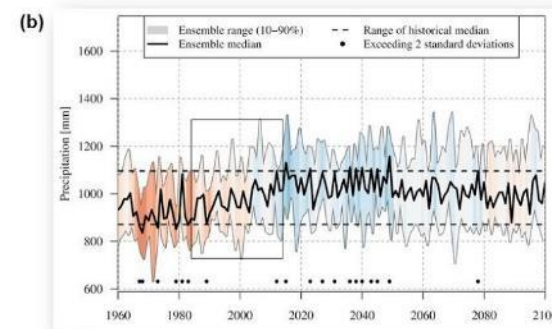
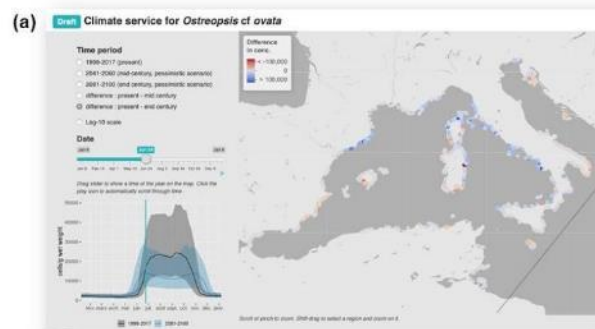


whole probability distribution function

Second order uncertainty: e.g. skill, reliability

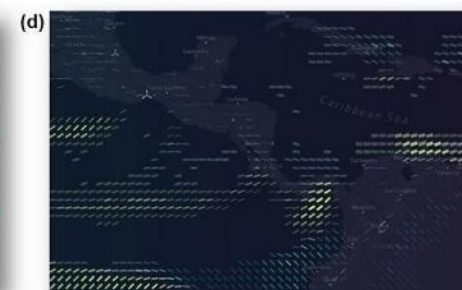
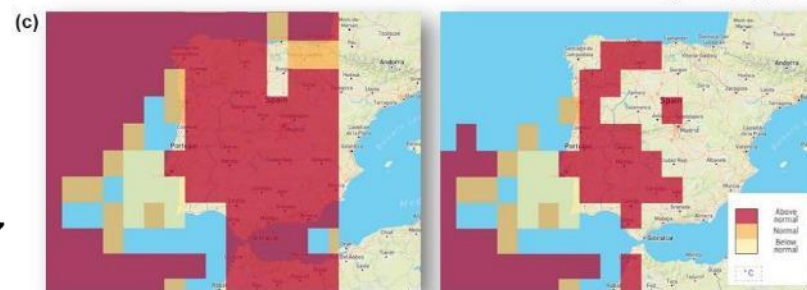
Terrado, M. et al.
www.climateurope.eu

uncertainty
not shown



show ensemble
range

mask areas with
high uncertainty



use visual
encoding (e.g.
transparency)



replace predictions with high uncertainty by the
climatology (i.e. average conditions of the past years)

use interactive options (e.g. slider)

THANK YOU



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